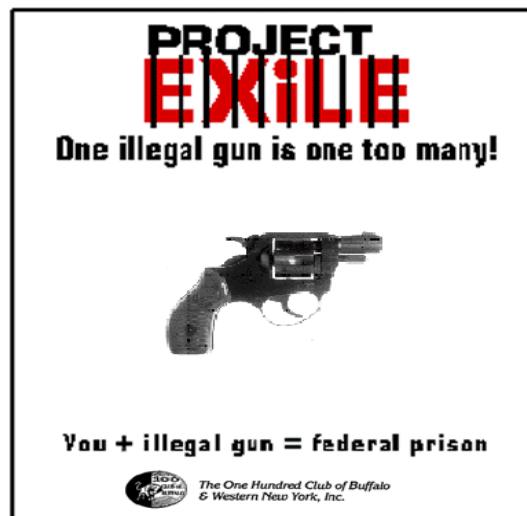


ERIE NIAGARA PROJECT EXILE

A firearm violence reduction initiative sponsored by the Erie County District Attorney's Office, Niagara County District Attorney's Office, United States Attorney's Office, Niagara County Sheriff's Department, Niagara Falls Police Department, Buffalo Police Department, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Office of Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Marshals Service, Cheektowaga Police Department, Erie County Probation Department, New York State Parole, Erie County Sheriff's Department, and Buffalo Weed and Seed Program in partnership with The One Hundred Club of Buffalo.



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July, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS OF ERIE NIAGARA PROJECT EXILE PROGRAM

- In August, 1999, the District Attorneys in Erie County and Niagara County entered into an agreement to begin a Strategic Firearms Enforcement Program with the U.S. Attorney's Office entitled Erie Niagara Project Exile, patterned after the successful Project Exile Programs in Richmond, Virginia and Rochester, New York.
- The Erie County District Attorney's Office has appointed an experienced Assistant District Attorney Lynette Reda to serve as Project Coordinator of the Erie Niagara Project Exile Program. A second prosecutor has been assigned full time to prosecute Project Exile cases in State Court through a vertical prosecution system.
- The Niagara County District Attorney's Office has designated one Assistant District Attorney to the Program. The United States Attorney's Office has dedicated two Assistant U.S. Attorneys to prosecute Project Exile cases in Federal Court.
- The Buffalo Police Department is working closely with the District Attorney's Office, HUD IG, ATF, Erie County Probation Office, and the U.S. Attorney's Office in developing a comprehensive plan for the effective investigation and prosecution of gun cases. This plan will include use of crime mapping and

enhanced enforcement in gun “hotspot” areas, as well as firearms tracing to identify the source of crimes guns.

- Participating agencies attend weekly operational meetings at the Buffalo Police Department to coordinate firearm investigations and prosecutions.
- To date, 19 defendants have been charged on Federal Firearms charges under the Erie Niagara Project Exile Program. Forty-seven illegal firearms have been seized and removed from the streets as a result of these prosecutions.
- Prosecutors and law enforcement agencies have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the One Hundred Club, a well-respected police support group, to develop a public outreach campaign. The campaign is aimed at informing the public of the consequences of illegal gun possession. The theme, “You + illegal gun = federal prison” reinforces the underlying purpose of Project Exile, namely, to prosecute cases involving illegal firearms in Federal Court when the penalty for the offense is greater under federal law. Under Project Exile, defendants who are prosecuted in federal court, upon conviction, are sentenced to federal penitentiaries outside of Western New York, and are literally, “exiled” from the Western New York community.
- In April, 2000, United States Senator Charles Schumer obtained funding from the Department of Justice for the Erie Niagara Project Exile Program.

The funding includes funds for a Project Exile Coordinator in the Erie County District Attorney's Office, a crime analyst for the Buffalo Police Department and \$30,000 for the public awareness campaign in Erie and Niagara Counties. Niagara County District Attorney Matthew J. Murphy III is donating an additional \$5,000 in asset forfeiture funds for the public awareness campaign in Niagara County.

- As part of the part of the Public Awareness Campaign, 50 billboards will be used to spread the Project Exile message in Erie and Niagara Counties. LAMAR Advertising has agreed to act as a sponsor of the Erie Niagara Project Exile Program and to donate billboard space for the Public Awareness Campaign.
- Project Exile will be advertised on three buses, on bus shelters and in subway stations, as well as by posters and palm cards.
- To date, over 1,400 police officers in Erie and Niagara Counties have received in-service Project Exile training in firearms interdiction, firearms tracing, federal and state firearm laws, and search and seizure law.
- The Cheektowaga Police Department joined in the Project Exile effort in June, 2000 and in-service training for Cheektowaga Police Officers is scheduled in July, 2000.

- The Erie County Probation Department and New York State Parole Department have begun distributing information on Project Exile to offenders currently on probation and parole.
- In January, 2000, officers of the Buffalo Police Department traveled to the ATF New York/New Jersey Regional Crime Center in New York City for further training in gun tracing and “hotspot” gun crime mapping.
- Participating agencies are working with the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for development of a violence prevention program for children in public housing projects and in the Buffalo Public Schools.
- The Erie Niagara Project Exile Program is working to expand the Buffalo Police Department’s nationally recognized Weed and Seed Gun Abatement program. This program was identified by the Department of Justice as one of the most effective comprehensive gun violence reduction strategies in March, 1999 in the OJJDP Report: Promising Strategies to Reduce Gun Violence. The program relies on community policing efforts targeted at drug and firearms enforcement in high crime areas and night-time police searches of abandoned houses for weapons. To date, 345 weapons have been confiscated during the first two years of the Weed and Seed Gun Abatement Program.

- The Project Exile law enforcement agencies will continue working with the Buffalo Weed and Seed Steering Committee and other community-based organizations in Erie and Niagara Counties toward developing a comprehensive strategy to reduce gun violence in Western New York. Plans are underway to develop additional programs in Western New York modeled after some of the successful anti-violence initiatives in Boston, Atlanta, and Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Further announcements will be made in the next several months.

Erie Niagara Project Exile Participating Agencies

Erie County District Attorney's Office
 Niagara County District Attorney's Office
 United States Attorney's Office, WDNY
 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
 U.S. Marshals Service
 Office of the Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development
 Erie County Sheriff's Department
 Niagara County Sheriff's Department
 Erie County Probation
 New York State Parole
 Buffalo Police Department
 Niagara Falls Police Department
 Lockport Police Department
 Erie County Office of Central Police Services
 Cheektowaga Police Department
 Buffalo Weed and Seed Program